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A COMPENDIUM OF CIVIL RIGHTS NEWS

July 17 '89



# Lesbian/Gay Life '89

Village Voice, June 27/89



# Tories split on gay rights protection

By ROY COOK  
and RICHARD HELM  
Journal Staff Writers

Labor Minister Elaine McCoy's plan to protect homosexuals from discrimination is drawing considerable opposition within the Tory caucus.

McCoy said earlier this week she will propose an amendment to Alberta's Individual's Rights Protection Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Her announcement was hailed by opposition critics, but denounced by Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley, who saw no reason to develop "special legislation to cover what is a behavioral activity."

Now, other Tory MLAs are speaking out against the plan.

Calgary-Millican MLA Gordon Shrake said he will oppose any move to entrench gay rights in Alberta law because of the potential impact it would have on the province's schools.

"I look upon the schools as a sacred place because the teachers are role models for the children."

Shrake said he's concerned that people who openly declare themselves as homosexuals could move into teaching positions.

Shrake regards homosexuality as "not a normal way of life... And we would not want to encourage the un-normal way of life in our society."

While he says he doesn't want to see people discriminated against because of their sexual preference, "I guess I still have some of the Christian ethics from a bygone era."

Cardston MLA Jack Ady said Thursday that protection for gay rights "certainly would not be popular among my constituents."

"I guess I remain to be convinced of the necessity of it."

Culture Minister Doug Main is also skeptical.

While Main won't make a final decision until he sees the proposed amendment, "my broad feeling on the matter is that it's looked after" in existing legislation, he said.

Recreation and Parks Minister Steve West, who represents the riding of Vermilion-Viking, said he's made up his mind on the matter.

But he refused to say whether he supports McCoy's initiative. He won't make his personal views known, he said, until after the proposal has been dealt with by cabinet.

Edmonton Journal, Wednesday March 22

# Pink hair and leather cost Joe Rose his life

MONTREAL (CP) — The murder of a man on a city bus by a teenaged gang is a symptom of growing violence against gays, members of the gay community say.

Witnesses said Tuesday that Joe Rose, a gay activist who was dying of AIDS, was attacked Sunday by a gang of 15 or more youths on a city bus because he looked gay.

A friend who was aboard the bus said the teenagers began jeering at Rose, who had dyed his hair pink and wore black leather.

"They were chanting, 'faggot, faggot,'" said the man, who would identify himself only as Sylvain.

The youths pulled off Rose's hat, began punching him, then pulled out knives and stabbed him repeatedly before fleeing.

"I'm convinced it was because he was gay," said Yvon Provencher, member of a Montreal gay student association.

"Why him when there were other people around? He looks gay. He had pink hair. He was very easy to pick on."

The Rose murder is part of a growing wave of violence against gays across Canada, said Les McAfee, executive director of Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere, a national lobby group.

McAfee said the public has become more tolerant toward the gay community, but "more specific, very violent individual crimes" are on the rise.

Growing fears about AIDS may be a factor, McAfee said.

"There have been many cases of queer-bashing in the Vancouver area, where there is the highest per capita of HIV-infected men," he said.

McAfee said there have been three previous murder cases in Canada where the motive was clearly related to bigotry against gays.

Provencher, spokesman for Lesbian and Gay Friends of Concordia University, said the Rose stabbing has angered Montreal's gay community.

"Gay bashing is a weekend activity — that's the feeling we get," he said. "People get beaten up frequently."

Const. Real Campin of the Montreal police would not comment on whether anti-gay violence was on the rise in the city.

"I have no way of telling," he said. "We

have no right to ask if a person is gay or lesbian or Protestant."

Vancouver and Toronto police said incidents involving hatred against gays occur regularly.

Barry Breau, executive director of the AIDS Network of Edmonton, is not aware of any acts of violence towards AIDS victims or gays, "although discrimination continues."

"Maybe Edmonton is a bit different than Toronto and Vancouver because the gay population in those cities is larger and more identifiable," he said.

Patrick Moise, 19, was charged with second-degree murder Monday in Rose's death. A 15-year-old juvenile whose identity is protected by law was charged as an accessory after the fact.

# Dating service opens for gays

Two Edmonton lesbians have opened up a gay dating service which they say is the first of its kind in Western Canada.

Sandy, 26, and her 23-year-old girlfriend, say On the Flip Side — which has drawn about 100 gay and bisexual clients since it opened in mid-May — provides a less expensive alternative to cruising city bars.

But the service is forced to operate under a veil of secrecy because the owners fear recrimination from the city's straight community, said Sandy, who asked that her real name not be printed.

"It's just not that open amongst society — they don't have much tolerance," Sandy of the heterosexual population.

Although the service doesn't guarantee a companion for every client, "we feel there's someone out there for everybody," said Sandy, a former photography laboratory technician.

Sandy, who cites Edmonton's high gay and bisexual population as the impetus for starting the service, said medical testing for AIDS isn't required of clients, but safe sex is encouraged.

"We don't set people up for sex — we set people up for friendship," she said.

On the Flip Side, which is headquartered in a downtown Edmonton office, has placed ads in both city newspapers to draw clients.

The Edmonton Sun Thursday, June 15





Edmonton Journal May 10

# Restaurant's boast of 'no gays' permitted by gap in Alberta law

By SHERRI AIKENHEAD  
Journal Staff Writer

An Edmonton restaurant owner, hoping to boost business, is openly boasting his establishment is "not owned by gays and not run by gays."

Angry homosexuals say flyers distributed to businesses near the restaurant and night club called Sax On Fifth, 10148 105 St., amount to discrimination.

"I was very angry when I first saw it," says gay activist Wayne Hellard. "I find the literature extremely offensive. It's discrimination against the gay community."

In the Yukon and three Canadian provinces, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, the reference to sexual orientation would likely be deemed illegal.

In Alberta, the government has refused to amend its human-rights laws to include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground.

The executive director of the Alberta Human Rights Commission agrees the ads sound discriminatory but is powerless to take any action.

"It certainly is evidence of discrimination against that group," said John Lynch. "Unfortunately, the law does not cover sexual orientation."

The new manager of Sax on Fifth, previously known as Lamborghini's and the Electric Banana, says he wants to attract the general public and must change the restaurant's image.

"Before it was owned by gays and

run by gays. I'm giving notice this is going to be a straight restaurant," Carmen Ahmed said Tuesday.

Two gay employees have given notice they will leave Saturday.

For the moment, Ahmed still welcomes gays to the establishment but strict rules govern their behavior.

Inside the black cavernous club, two men are not permitted to dance together.

Kissing is also forbidden.

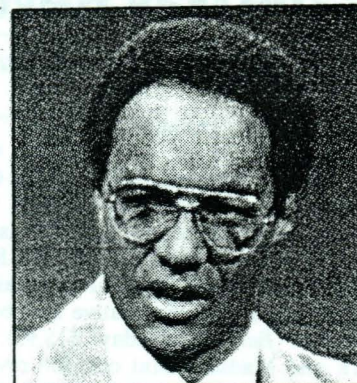
Hellard is advising gays to boycott the business.

"We've heard from a number of people who attend the place and were told at the door that they could come in but could not hold hands or do anything to indicate they were gay," said Hellard.

Tom Edge, a member of Gays and Lesbians Awareness, says the issue highlights the need for amendments to Alberta's Individual Rights Protection Act.

"If the club had indicated it was not owned by Jews, the Jewish community would be very upset because religions are protected and there are grounds for laying a complaint.

"We don't have that kind of protection."



Fil Fraser

## Rights chief announced

Edmonton broadcaster and film producer Fil Fraser will become the new chairman of the Alberta's Human Rights Commission, Labor Minister Elaine McCoy announced.

Fraser, a former CKUA radio host, says the time will come for human rights legislation to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.







Thousands marched in San Francisco's annual gay freedom day parade last week

## Is the Gay Revolution a Flop?

*A new book urges homosexuals to tone down and blend in*

**T**he gay revolution has failed." To thousands of homosexuals who marched last weekend in the annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Day parades, the thought may be heretical, but it is exactly the argument put forth by Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen, two Harvard-trained psychologists, in a provocative new book, *After the Ball* (Doubleday; \$19.95). As Kirk and Madsen point out, the revolution began 20 years ago last week in New York City at a gay bar, the Stonewall Inn, when for the first time patrons fought back against police conducting a routine raid.

The authors, both of whom are gay, acknowledge that homosexuals' lives have improved since then, but they say the victories are limited because America's fundamental attitudes have not changed. "The gay movement hasn't got nearly so far as the black civil rights movement," declared Madsen in an interview. "Yes, our life-style is now 'public'—in highly restricted urban areas—but coast to coast, hatred and contempt for gays aren't far from where they were 25 years ago."

In fact, the majority of gay men and women still do not openly disclose their sexual orientation because prejudice remains so deeply embedded in the U.S. About 25 million Americans are gay, but society's institutions, from government to the church and the press to advertising, virtually ignore their existence. "America is not only reluctant to recognize news events or address public issues concerning gays, it also refuses to educate citizens on the nature of homosexuality itself," write

the authors. Americans, they hold, continue to harbor distorted perceptions. Among them: people choose to be gay, homosexuals are kinky sex addicts and child molesters, they are untrustworthy and antifamily, and they are suicidally unhappy. Such social attitudes give tacit approval to bigoted behavior, from antigay jokes to violence.

Kirk, 31, and Madsen, 34, put much of the blame for the revolution's failure on gays themselves. The pair argue that the movement for too long was wrongly focused on sexual freedom and self-expression, issues that they feel have antagonized the public. Instead, they say, the emphasis should be on civil rights and fairness, concerns that appeal to all Americans. AIDS, which has devastated the gay community, has helped shift the gay-rights agenda away from liberated sex to more mainstream values.

Kirk and Madsen charge that the gay



Authors Hunter Madsen and Marshall Kirk

*Warning against fanning the fire of bigotry.*

movement has been weakened by its insistence that self-hatred is a basic problem. "Learning to like yourself is an essential first step," Kirk told *TIME*, "that's all it is." It does not guarantee that everyone else will like you too, he notes. If gays are to achieve the ultimate goals of acceptance and assimilation, they will have to overcome America's hostility.

To that end, Kirk and Madsen assert, gays need to project an unthreatening, respectable image to the straight world. They advise curbing flamboyant excesses and keeping drag queens and butch lesbians out of the public eye. Explains Madsen: "If you want to stop the fire of bigotry, don't put it out with gasoline." The authors advocate a calculated national media campaign using clean-cut types, an idea they first suggested in 1985.

While praising the book's analysis of antihomosexual sentiment, many gays reject its arguments. Self-acceptance is still a major hurdle for gay men and women, critics insist. But they are most riled by the suggestion that gays need to tone down and blend in; that would slash at the heart of the gay-rights movement, they charge. Says Sherrie Cohen of the Fund for Human Dignity: "We're for embracing diversity and for protecting the civil rights of anyone who is perceived as 'different.'" Toby Marotta, a sociologist in San Francisco, finds the book's thesis the same "homophile argument used before Stonewall and abandoned afterward." Some gays believe, too, that the conservative approach may actually encourage homosexuals to remain invisible; the better gays succeed in blending in, they suggest, the easier and more tempting it may be to hide their sexuality.

Still, most agree that a campaign promoting positive images of gays is a necessity. On the West Coast, the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project has run advertisements in the *L.A. Weekly* and the *Pasadena/Altadena Weekly*. One of them shows a mother, her gay daughter and her partner embracing happily. Reads the headline: I'M PROUD OF MY LESBIAN DAUGHTER. In New York City last month, the Fund for Human Dignity unveiled a model national campaign that would feature gay-rights supporters in 60-second TV spots called "Stonewall Minutes." In one sample spot, attorney Thomas Stoddard of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund declares that "the days when gay people could never be themselves, when gay issues were never discussed, will never come again." That is undoubtedly true. But most gays would also agree with one of Kirk's main points: "Success will only come when we've managed to push up and down to the other side the huge national rock of hatred."

—By Anastasia Toufexis.

Reported by Edward M. Gomez/New York



# Aldermen divided on gay day

By LYNDA SHORTEN  
Journal Staff Writer

Edmonton's homosexual community is finding few supporters at city hall willing to declare June 27 Gay and Lesbian Awareness Day.

Ald. Mel Binder and Ald. Patricia Mackenzie joined Monday with Mayor Terry Cavanagh and Ald. Ken Kozak in saying the city should not proclaim a special day dedicated to awareness of Edmonton's homosexual community.

Ald. Jan Reimer, just back from holidays, had not yet seen the request from the Gay and Lesbian Awareness (GALA) Celebration Committee for the proclamation.

However, she said there needs to be a fair amount of public education on the issue.

"While you may not support that kind of lifestyle or want to hold it out as an example of a lifestyle, nevertheless there should not be any kind of discrimination to gays or lesbians," she told reporters.

"And if that's the intent of their request, then I support that because I don't think we should be discriminating in terms of sexual orientation."

Mackenzie said she was disturbed that the GALA request referred to a "celebration" in connection with gay awareness and not specifically to a fight for equal rights.

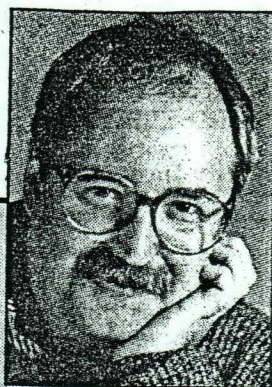
"I don't agree with their lifestyle," she said. "I'll fight for their civil liberties but I won't condone or publicize their lifestyle."

Binder explained his lack of support by referring to the city's policy on proclaiming special days, weeks or months. The GALA request does not fit in, he said.

Cavanagh repeated his earlier rejection of the GALA request.

"Can anybody here tell me why I should?" he asked in response to reporters' questions.

Matthew Kuefler, one of the GALA organizers, said the city response means the gay community still has a long way to go to achieve equality and acceptance.



**Alan Kellogg**

## A sad day

It's been a sad week for our town, as the darker forces in our midst clearly dominated local events. True, Tuesday's decision by city council to reject proclaiming June 27 as Gay and Lesbian Awareness Day was predictable enough considering the current crowd. Heaven knows, we're all aware of the hidden prehensile tails coiled underneath the springy polyester blends favored by a majority of aldermen. And you didn't need to consult the I Ching to realize the (media-solicited) mutterings of Julian Kinisky, a deeply ignorant man, could serve as a skewed soundtrack for the whole sorry business.

As Journal columnist John Geiger pointed out almost three weeks ago, our always-progressive mayor had already decided against the city participating in the GALA '89 celebration, demonstrating the courage and enlightened leadership we have come to expect. This, in spite of such local proclamations as Surveyors Week, McHappy Day, Cable Television Month and Coin Week.

Edmonton Journal

Sunday May 14

It may be asking too much for council to adopt the activist sensibilities that similar bodies across the country have embraced, officially commenting on a variety of (global, hence local) issues stretching from environmental concerns to the simple desirability of world peace. And yes, the excesses of councils dominated by the loony left and right have been well chronicled from Liverpool to Little Rock. No one is suggesting the municipal leadership, busy enough with our own challenges, should condemn the Peronistas or express solidarity with Javanese jackfruit pickers.

In this case, council was simply asked to recognize reality, offering a token nod to the achievements of a group of Edmontonians who contribute to every last segment of society, every human endeavor possible. It's demeaning to gay people to even compartmentalize the impact and scope of their work — it's everywhere, and everyone knows it.

That we should even have to debate this recognition in the year 1989 is ludicrous, lamentable. But the hateful comments uttered by a city father this week — and the threatening response it may have generated — offers particular cause for reflection. Our future in Edmonton, as elsewhere rests on our ability to grasp the real world and settle our difficulties through understanding, compassion and shared resources. The sentiment isn't flowery goop culled from a faded manifesto, but a simple recipe for survival. Alas, only Jan Reimer and Lance White affirmed it this week, a fact voters involved with the arts community, not to mention the rest of us, should remember this fall.

## Gay Day Anyway

June 27 will be "Gay Day Anyway" says an Edmonton society of homosexuals.

The group Gay and Lesbian Awareness was bitterly disappointed by a city council decision last month which turned down their request for a proclamation of a gay and lesbian day.

But the group decided to go ahead with its 12-day awareness campaign called GALA '89 despite the city's position. The last day will include a mock proclamation of "Gay Day Anyway."

The campaign, including workshops, exhibits, picnics and dances, runs from June 16-27. Its theme is Celebrate our Differences.



## STONEWALL REMEMBERED

June 27, 1969. At first glance that date may not mean anything but just another day in the annals of history. But the date is symbolic, and is very important when it is likened to the word Stonewall. June 27 '69 was the date that New York city's finest found out that all homosexuals weren't limp-wristed, effeminate men. It was the date of the Stonewall riots, and the beginning of gay pride.

The atmosphere in the small bar was subdued that evening. Judy Garland, who had been described as the patron saint of gays and lesbians, had died a few days before, and the shock was giving way to frustration and rage. The New York City Police had been raiding notorious homosexual hang-outs, staunchly upholding the district's strict sodomy & seduction laws, and had hit two bars already that week. But when they entered the Stonewall Inn, expelling some two hundred plus patrons from the private club, they had no idea what they had started.

The bar's clientele found themselves in the street, where another two hundred or so homophiles greeted them with shouts of "Gay power!" and "Gay is good, gay is great!" The drag queens in the crowd began the chanting, since most of the others were still too afraid of the repercussions. Eventually, the group began throwing rocks, coins, bricks and any debris it could lay its hands on (including a parking meter that had been wrenched from the ground) through the windows of the Stonewall at the police inside. Rioters utilized hit-and-run tactics, similar to guerilla warfare, on the police, who responded by calling in their riot squads. Thus was born the Gay Liberation Front.

The G.L.F. became the prototype for rebellious groups all across the nation. The message was simple, the

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goals easily defined: being gay was not bad, and they would do everything possible to achieve personal respect and a thoroughly reorganized social structure.

The riot, which lasted four days, marked the birth of a major division within the American homosexual rights movement. New gay militants refused to identify with "homosexual" or "homophile", associating the words with stereotypes and failure. Instead, young radicals chose the word "gay", despite its obscure origins, to represent them.

And gay liberation was a hot topic. The protestors encouraged all types of gay men and women to actively participate in the struggle for equality, and to build a strong and supportive gay community. The Gay Activists Alliance, a splinter group of the G.L.F., organized its now famous "zaps" (a sit-in, where one or two gay speakers would attack the existing laws and hundreds of gay men & women, hearing about it 'through the grapevine', would flock to the area, showing support) with inspiring goals in mind: to end entrapment and harassment in bars, abolish New York State's laws on sodomy and solicitation, and guarantee fair employment and housing to gay men and women.

The G.A.A. also formed a gay social center, known as the Firehouse, where dances and community events raised over \$10,000 to start other gay groups around the country, the biggest being in San Francisco (in fact, on the first anniversary of the riots, over ten thousand people marched on Central Park in New York, whereas in 'Frisco there were a hundred thousand-plus marchers, supporting gay pride!).

This June will mark the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. All around us there will be events and happenings. So join in. Have fun. Be Proud and loud!!!

-Robyn

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Gala Society has two students on STEP and SEED grants employed until the end of August. For information

about GALA or any gay-related issues call 424-8245 or write: Box 53, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2G9.